

How to Reduce the Risk of Measles Transmission in Healthcare Settings

Follow these steps to reduce the risk of transmission:

1. **Ask patients presenting with febrile illness and a rash*** about recent international or domestic travel to an area with an ongoing outbreak, history of measles exposures in their communities, or whether they had contact with someone with a rash illness. Suspect measles in patients with such history.

**Measles typically begins with a prodrome of fever accompanied by cough, coryza (runny nose), and conjunctivitis (pink eye). Two to four days later a maculopapular rash develops and spread from the head to the trunk. [More details on signs and symptoms.](#)*

2. **Immediately provide a mask and isolate patients with suspected measles** by placing the patient in an airborne isolation room if available. If such room is not available, place the patient in a private room with the door closed (make sure patient is masked).
3. **Only allow fully immunized healthcare personnel** (with documentation of 2 doses of MMR vaccine or evidence of immunity – titer) to enter the patient’s room
 - a. Everyone should enter the room with an N95 respirator or similar respirator regardless of immunity status.
4. **Do not allow visitors who might be susceptible** to enter the room.
5. **Close examination room and anywhere the patient has walked through for at least 2 hours** after the suspected patient leaves
 - a. For outpatient facilities, any waiting or public areas and shared air spaces (including those with shared air ducts) should be cleared for two hours after the patient has left the area. No new patient should be allow in the facility for that time period.
6. **Notify DC Department of Health (DC Health) immediately** of any suspected measles cases and arrange for measles testing through DC Health by calling 1-844-493-2652.
7. **Do not refer suspected measles patient to other location** for additional clinical evaluation or laboratory testing until consulting DC Health
 - a. **If patient needs to be referred, notify the referral location** and instruct the patient to inform healthcare providers of their suspected measles diagnosis prior to entering a healthcare facility to make sure that appropriate infection control measures can be implemented at those location.
8. **Create a line list with contact information and state of residency of exposed staff and other patients** who may have been exposed to the suspected case from the time the patient arrived in your facility and up to 2 hours after the patient left to provide to DC Health.

For more information please email doh.epi@dc.gov.